

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03183 052108Z

16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 OMB-01

EUR-25 NEA-14 DRC-01 IO-14 /186 W
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R 052041Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8856

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, CI

SUBJECT: RABASA VISIT TO CHILE

REF: MEXICO 4573, 4574

1. DISCUSSION IN MEXICO REGARDING WHO WON AND WHO
LOST AS RESULT RABASA VISIT TO CHILE IS OF INTEREST
TO US BECAUSE IN SOME RESPECTS IT PARALLELS A SIMILAR
DISCUSSION WHICH HAS GONE ON HERE.

2. THIS REACHED POINT WHERE JUNTA PRESS SECRETARY
FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY SAW FIT TO HAVE PUBLISHED IN
JUNE 4 PRESS STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF CHILE
AND MEXICO HAD ATTAINED "A DIPLOMATIC RECIPROCAL SUCCESS"
AS RESULT OF VISIT. REJECTING INFERENCES THAT MEXICO HAD
BEEN "WINNER" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WILLOUGHBY EXPLAINED
THAT GOC HAD ONLY MOVED TOWARD CARRYING OUT ITS EARLIER
ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF RELEASING ASYLEES IN EMBASSIES,
WHILE RESUMPTION OF FULL DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL ON BOTH SIDES.

3. ALTHOUGH WILLOUGHBY IMPLIED THAT NEFARIOUS
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 03183 052108Z

MARXIST FORCES HAD AN INTEREST IN SPREADING STORY

THAT CHILEANS HAD BEEN BESTED BY RABASA, WE BELIEVE MOST OF THE CRITICISM HERE CAME FROM THE RIGHT-WING HARD LINERS. THEY CONSISTENTLY TAKE THE POSITION THAT ANY FLEXIBILITY ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL CRITICISM REPRESENTS A KIND OF APPEASEMENT WHICH CAN ONLY HARM CHILE IN THE LONG RUN.

4. ONE INTERESTING POINT MADE BY OUR CHILEAN CONTACTS IS THAT RABASA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF NORMALITY HE OBSERVED DURING HIS STAY IN SANTIAGO. OTHER VISITORS HAVE SAME IMPRESSION, AND INCREASINGLY A SHARP CONTRAST IS DRAWN BETWEEN DOMESTIC SECURITY SITUATION IN CHILE AND REPORTS OF VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA. WHILE PUBLIC ORDER IS NOT NECESSARILY AN END IN ITSELF, THIS IS A POINT WORTH NOTING ABOUT CHILE -- ESPECIALLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION IN CHILE THROUGH THE EARLY PART OF 1973.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA03183
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740143-0996
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740673/aaaackor.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MEXICO 4573, 4574
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RABASA VISIT TO CHILE
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SOCI, MX, CI, (RABASA), (WILLOUGHBY, FEDERICO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005